

The handheld computer executes software stored in an executable format such as a .prc file. The software allows the handheld computer to track Daily Field Journals, such as:

- Work Progress of Unit Bid Items and Contract Deliverables
- Manpower Utilization
- Equipment Utilization
- General Information including weather, temperature, remarks, and inspector's name.

The software also tracks an Inspection Checklist, such as:

- Generation of Punch list items
- Tracking of Punch list items
- Facility Inventory
- Facility Repairs & Cost Estimates

The software also keeps Project Documentation and captures, among others:

- Project Specifications
- Industry Specifications
- Drawing Logs

Fig. 10 shows an exemplary process 500 for collecting data in the field and uploading the data to the computer of Fig. 2. First, a user collects work in progress data (step 510). The information collected includes project/contract identification, inspector identification, item number, location, and one or more description of activities. Various exemplary screens on a handheld computer for step 510 are shown as Figs. 11-18. Next, the user collects labor related cost (step 520). The information collected in step 520 includes labor type, quantity and hours. Next, the process 500 collects equipment being used for the project (step 530). The information collected includes equipment type, quantity, hours in use and stand-by hours. Next, the process 500 collects additional submittal information (step 540). The information collected includes weather condition, comments, and the name of the inspector, among others. The process 500 then sends the collected information to the system of Fig. 1 (step 550). This can be done wirelessly using a wireless handheld unit such as the Palm VII, available from Palm Computing. Alternatively, the information can be transmitted using a modem or using an external computer with a suitable hot-sync cradle. In the later case, the handheld unit is synchronized with the external computer and, upon concluding the synchronization, the external computer opens a connection with the server of Fig. 1 and transmits the collected data from the handheld unit. The collected information is then imported to the database of Fig. 1, and appropriate data import operations and report generation operations can be done (step 560). The process 500 then exits.

After collecting data, the handheld computer is placed in a hot sync cradle or aligned with an infrared port on a host computer for data transfer. The user, or inspector, activates a data receiving software on a workstation or a laptop. The user selects an icon to initiate data uploads and downloads to the handheld computer. The user will select the project to be updated or refreshed before selecting the icon. Only changed project information will be

uploaded. The downloading of project information is performed the same way, a project is selected and selection of the icon initiates the file transfer. The file transfer results in the project information stored in a database to be converted to a handheld format such as a "pdb format". The "pdb format" will result in an individual project table to be generated for each project on the handheld computer. Updates to the table is done in the same manner as described above.

Although an exemplary implementation has been shown for making ground travel reservation covering taxis, limousines, buses, charters, rental cars, shuttles, buses and trains, among others, the system is expandable to other industries. Although the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, this description is not to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the disclosed embodiments, as well as alternative embodiments, will be apparent to persons skilled in the art. It is, therefore, contemplated that the appended claims will cover all modifications that fall within the true scope of the invention.